

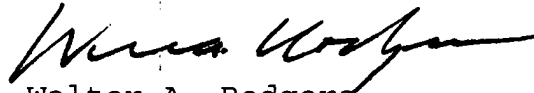
inhalation apparatus which houses various types of equipment specifically including oxygen tank 17. This type of apparatus is generally used by medical personnel to revive a patient in distress and is prepared at the factory to include a filled oxygen tank. After use, the apparatus is returned to the factory or shop at which the time the tank is refilled.

On the other hand, applicants' apparatus is used generally by firefighters who require an apparatus which includes an airtight shell to house sensitive control and other components of the apparatus but has the air tank disposed on the exterior of the shell to provide immediate access thereto when the full tank must be substituted for an empty tank quickly and efficiently in the course of fighting a fire. Applicants' independent claims 8 and 9 specifically define the air tank as being disposed exteriorly of the enclosed housing and, for this reason, independent claims 8 and 9 are believed allowable.

Dependent claims 2-7 are believed to be allowable because they define further specific features of applicants' invention.

Therefore, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-9 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter A. Rodgers
Attorney's Reg. No. 27,380

Date: September 2, 1999

880 North Island Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30327